

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11

AGR-20 COME-00 STR-08 CIEP-02 CU-04 RSR-01 /173 W

----- 100792

R 181345 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5124

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL SALT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07147

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL; HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, EEC, FR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR, EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND EUROGROUP:

BRINGING FRANCE INTO THE BUSINESS

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REF: A. BONN 6465; B. BONN A-300; C. BONN 6912

1. WE ARE INFORMED THAT, DURING REGULAR MAY 11 BILATERAL BETWEEN GERMAN AND FRENCH FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTORS, PUAUX TOLD VAN WELL THAT THE FRENCH WERE COOLING TOWARD THE IDEA OF CONSULTING ON MBFR WITHIN THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE. PUAUX ADVANCED TWO REASONS FOR THIS MORE NEGATIVE FRENCH POSITION. FIRST, PARIS WAS CONCERNED THAT PC DISCUSSION OF MBFR COULD SERVE TO DRAW FRANCE BACK INTO NATO MILITARY ALLIANCE, SOMETHING THE GERMANS HOPE WILL OCCUR. WHEN VAN WELL SUGGESTED THAT THE BUSY POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD DO BETTER TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP ON MBFR, PUAUX SAID THE FRENCH WOULD BE OPPOSED TO PARTICIPATING IN SUCH A WORKING GROUP WHICH WOULD BY THE SHEER NATURE OF THINGS COORDINATE ITS MBFR POSITIONS CLOSELY WITH NATO. ( COMMENT: UNTIL NOW, THE GERMANS ALSO HAD OPPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN MBFR WORKING GROUP WITHIN THE EC- NINE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE PC TOO DEEPLY IN MILITARY ASPECTS OF MBFR. END COMMENT)

2. PUAUX SAID THE FRENCH ALSO WERE OPPOSED TO PC CONSIDERATION OF MBFR BECAUSE PARIS DID NOT LIKE THE ITALIAN PAPER ON THE SUBJECT ( SEE REFTELS). IN PARTICULAR, PUAUX SAID THE FRENCH REJECTED THE IDEA OF REDUCTIONS IN EUROPEAN INDIGENOUS FORCES, WHETHER SIMULTANEOUS WITH INITIAL STATIONED ( US/ USSR) FORCE REDUCTIONS OR, AS SUGGESTED BY THE ITALIANS, AFTER FIXING A CERTAIN LEVEL FOR ATLANTIC ALLIANCE OR SUB- CEILINGS FOR US AND EC FORCES ( SEE REF A, PARA 7).

3. THIS RENEWED MANIFESTATION OF FRENCH OPPOSITION TO MBFR WAS DESCRIBED TO SIR ALEC DOUGLAS- HOME DURING HIS MAY 16 MEETING IN BONN WITH FONMIN SCHEEL. DURING THEIR TALK, MBFR DETAILS TO BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL, DOUGLAS- HOME AND SCHEEL AGREED ON THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE EARNEST US REQUEST FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN EUROPEAN FORCES. BUT DOUGLAS- HOME STRONGLY ASSERTED THAT THE FRENCH ALSO MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE BUSINESS OF CONSULTING ON THIS SUBJECT AND COMPLAINED THAT FRENCH CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO JOIN THE EUROGROUP. WITH THE FRENCH OUT OF THE EUROGROUP AND NOW LOOSING INTEREST

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IN PC DISCUSSIONS OF MBFR, DOUGLAS- HOME CONCLUDED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO " INVENT A NEW GROUP" IN WHICH ALL EUROPEAN ALLIES ( INCLUDING THE GREEKS, TURKS, NORWEGIANS, ICELANDERS AND PORTUGUESE AS WELL AS THE FRENCH) COULD PARTICIPATE. BUT SIR ALEC HAD NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SCORE.

HILLENBRAND

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NMAFVVZCZ

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** ANKARA  
ATHENS  
BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
EUR  
LISBON  
SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

WASHDC

**Type:** TE

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